

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A computer implemented method for regulating a level of self-disclosure in an instant messaging communications session, the method comprising:

enabling user selection, on a first instant messaging participant system, of an instant messaging communications mode from among at least a first available self-disclosure mode and a second available self-disclosure mode, the first available self-disclosure mode disclosing a different amount of information about a first instant messaging participant than the second available self-disclosure mode;

enabling creation, on the first instant messaging participant system, of a multimedia message clip, the multimedia message clip including both audio and video,

enabling editing of the multimedia message clip according to the selected communications mode, and

enabling presentation, to a second instant messaging participant system, of the edited message clip.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the message clip on a host system.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein enabling presentation comprises enabling delivery of the edited message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
selecting the first available self-disclosure mode;
creating a first multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant system,
the first multimedia message clip including both audio and video;
based on selection of the first available self-disclosure mode, editing the first multimedia
message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode; and
presenting the edited first message clip to the second instant messaging participant
system.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
selecting the second available self-disclosure mode;
creating a second multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant
system, the second multimedia message clip including both audio and video;
based on selection of the second available self-disclosure mode, editing the second
multimedia message clip according to the second available self-disclosure mode; and
presenting the edited second message clip to the second instant messaging participant
system.

6. (Previously presented) A computer implemented method for regulating a level of self-
disclosure in an instant messaging communications session, the method comprising:
rendering, on a first instant messaging participant system, an instant messaging
application user interface for an instant messaging communications session involving at least a
first instant messaging participant and a second instant messaging participant;
enabling user selection, on the first instant messaging participant system, of an instant
messaging communications mode from among at least a first available self-disclosure mode and
a second available self-disclosure mode, the first available self-disclosure mode disclosing a
different amount of information about the first instant messaging participant than the second

available self-disclosure mode, the user selection being enabled at least in part through display of the available modes at the instant messaging application user interface;

enabling creation, on the first instant messaging participant system, of a multimedia message clip that includes both audio and video, the multimedia message clip being created at least in part through user interaction with the instant messaging application user interface;

enabling editing of the multimedia message clip according to the selected communications mode; and

enabling presentation of the edited message clip to a second instant messaging participant system in response to a user interaction with the instant messaging application user interface.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 in which enabling user selection comprises enabling user selection of at least one of a text communications mode, an audio communications mode, a still photograph communications mode and a video communications mode.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 in which enabling creation of a multimedia message clip comprises enabling selection of a pre-stored message clip.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the pre-stored message clip is stored on a host system.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising:
selecting the first available self-disclosure mode;
creating a first multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant system, the first multimedia message clip including both audio and video;
in response to selection of the first available self-disclosure mode, editing the first multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode; and

presenting the edited first message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising:
selecting the second available self-disclosure mode;
creating a second message clip on the first instant messaging participant system, the second multimedia message clip including both audio and video;
in response to selection of the second available self-disclosure mode, editing the second multimedia message clip according to the second available self-disclosure mode; and
presenting the edited second message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

12. (Previously presented) A computer program, stored on a tangible computer readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions for:

enabling user selection, on a first instant messaging participant system, of an instant messaging communications mode from among at least a first available self-disclosure mode and a second available self-disclosure mode, the first available self-disclosure mode disclosing a different amount of information about a first instant messaging participant than the second available self-disclosure mode;

enabling creation, on the first instant messaging participant system, of a multimedia message clip, the multimedia message clip including both audio and video,

enabling editing of the multimedia message clip according to the selected communications mode, and

enabling presentation, to a second instant messaging participant system, of the edited message clip.

13. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 12 further comprising instructions for storing the message clip on a host system.

14. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 13 wherein instructions for enabling delivery comprises instructions for enabling delivery of the message clip from the host system to the second instant messaging participant system.

15. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 12 further comprising instructions for:

selecting the first available self-disclosure mode;

creating a first multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant system, the first multimedia message clip including both audio and video;

based on selection of the first available self-disclosure mode, editing the first multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode; and

presenting the edited first message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

16. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 15 further comprising instructions for:

selecting the second available self-disclosure mode;

creating a second multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant system, the second multimedia message clip including both audio and video;

based on selection of the second available self-disclosure mode, editing the second multimedia message clip according to the second available self-disclosure mode; and

presenting the edited second message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

17. (Previously presented) A computer program, stored on a tangible computer readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions for:

rendering, on a first instant messaging participant system, an instant messaging application user interface for an instant messaging communications session involving at least a first instant messaging participant and a second instant messaging participant;

enabling user selection, on the first instant messaging participant system, of an instant messaging communications mode from among at least a first available self-disclosure mode and a second available self-disclosure mode, the first available self-disclosure mode disclosing a different amount of information about the first instant messaging participant than the second available self-disclosure mode, the user selection being enabled at least in part through display of the available modes at the instant messaging application user interface;

enabling creation, on the first instant messaging participant system, of a multimedia message clip that includes both audio and video, the multimedia message clip being created at least in part through user interaction with the instant messaging application user interface;

enabling editing of the multimedia message clip according to the selected communications mode; and

enabling presentation of the edited message clip to a second instant messaging participant system in response to a user interaction with the instant messaging application user interface.

18. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 17 in which instructions for enabling user selection comprises instructions for enabling user selection of at least one of a text communications mode, an audio communications mode, a still photograph communications mode and a video communications mode.

19. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 17 in which instructions for enabling creation of a multimedia message clip comprises instructions for enabling selection of a pre-stored message clip.

20. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 19 wherein the message clip is stored on a host system.

21. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 17 further comprising instructions for:

- selecting the first available self-disclosure mode;
- creating a first multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant system, the first multimedia message clip including both audio and video;
- in response to selection of the first available self-disclosure mode, editing the first multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode; and
- presenting the edited first message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

22. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 21 further comprising instructions for:

- selecting the second available self-disclosure mode;
- creating a second message clip on the first instant messaging participant system, the second multimedia message clip including both audio and video;
- in response to selection of the second available self-disclosure mode, editing the second multimedia message clip according to the second available self-disclosure mode; and
- presenting the edited second message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

- the first available self-disclosure mode comprises a picture plus audio mode;
- enabling editing of the multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode comprises deleting the video from the multimedia message clip; and
- enabling presentation of the edited message clip to the second instant messaging participant system comprises concurrently presenting a still image and the remaining audio of the message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the first available self-disclosure mode comprises a picture plus audio mode;
enabling editing of the multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode comprises masking the video of the multimedia message clip; and
enabling presentation of the edited message clip to the second instant messaging participant system comprises concurrently presenting a still image and the audio of the multimedia message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein:
the first available self-disclosure mode comprises a picture plus audio mode;
editing the first multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode comprises deleting the video from the first multimedia message clip; and
presenting the edited first message clip to the second instant messaging participant system comprises concurrently presenting a still image and the remaining audio of the first message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein:
the first available self-disclosure mode comprises a picture plus audio mode;
editing the first multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode comprises masking the video of the first multimedia message clip; and
presenting the edited first message clip to the second instant messaging participant system comprises concurrently presenting a still image and the audio of the first multimedia message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

27. (New) A computer implemented method for regulating self-disclosure in an instant messaging communications sessions, the method comprising:

establishing, between an instant message sender and an instant message recipient, an instant messaging communications session that enables an exchange of textual, audio, and audio-video messages between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient;

providing the instant message sender with different communications modes for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session, the different communications modes offering varying levels of self-disclosure and including:

- a textual message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send textual messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session,

- an audio message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send audio messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session, and

- an audio-video message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send audio-video messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

receiving an indication of a selection, by the instant message sender from among the different communications modes, of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session; and

sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

enabling the instant message sender to change the communications mode selected for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

receiving an indication of a selection, by the instant message sender from among the different communications modes, of a new communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the newly selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session; and

sending the message generated according to the newly selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient.

29. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein:

receiving an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises receiving an indication of selection of the textual message communications mode;

facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises facilitating generation of a textual message by the instant message sender; and

sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the textual message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

30. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein:

receiving an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications

session comprises receiving an indication of selection of the audio message communications mode;

facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises facilitating generation of an audio message by the instant message sender; and

sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein

facilitating generation of an audio message by the instant message sender comprises recording an audio message; and

sending the audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the recorded audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

32. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein

facilitating generation of an audio message by the instant message sender comprises accessing a pre-recorded audio message; and

sending the audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the pre-recorded audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

33. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein:

receiving an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises receiving an indication of selection of the audio-video message communications mode;

facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises facilitating generation of an audio-video message by the instant message sender; and

sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein

facilitating generation of an audio-video message by the instant message sender comprises recording an audio-video message; and

sending the audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the recorded audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

35. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein

facilitating generation of an audio-video message by the instant message sender comprises accessing a pre-recorded audio-video message; and

sending the audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the pre-recorded audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

36. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein:

the different communications modes further include an audio and still picture communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send a message to the instant message recipient that includes an audio message and a still picture;

receiving an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises receiving an indication of selection of the audio and still picture communications mode;

facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises facilitating generation of a message including an audio message and a still picture; and

sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the message including the audio message and the still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient.

37. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein:

facilitating generation of a message including an audio message and a still picture comprises taking a still photograph; and

sending the message including the audio message and the still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the still photograph for delivery to the instant message recipient.

38. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein:

facilitating generation of a message including an audio message and a still picture comprises accessing a previously generated still picture; and

sending the message including the audio message and the still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the previously generated still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient.

39. (New) A method for communicating comprising:

establishing an audio-video instant messaging communications session between a first instant message participant that is capable of engaging in user-recorded audio-video messaging and a second instant message participant that is capable of engaging in user-recorded audio-video messaging, the audio-video instant messaging communications session enabling user-

recorded audio-video messaging between the first instant message participant and the second instant message participant;

receiving a request from the first instant message participant to limit self-disclosure within the audio-video instant messaging communications session by invoking a communications mode that includes only non-user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant within the audio-video instant messaging communications session;

in response to receiving the request to invoke the communications mode that includes only non-user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant within the audio-video instant messaging communications session, invoking the communications mode that includes only non-user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant within the audio-video instant messaging communications session;

receiving and displaying, to the first instant message participant, audio-video messages recorded by the second instant message participant;

facilitating generation, by the first instant message participant, of messages according to the communications mode that includes only non-user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant; and

sending the messages generated according to the communications mode that includes only non-user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant for delivery to the second instant message participant.

40. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein facilitating generation, by the first instant message participant, of messages according to the communications mode that includes only non-user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant comprises using audio-video recording equipment to record only audio messages.

41. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein facilitating generation, by the first instant message participant, of messages according to the communications mode that includes only non-

user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant comprises:

- using audio-video recording equipment to record audio-video messages that include audio and video components;
- deleting the video component from the recorded audio-video messages; and
- generating messages that include only the audio component of the recorded audio-video messages.

42. (New) The method of claim 39 further comprising:

- receiving an indication of a selection, by the first instant message participant, of a still picture for display to the second instant message participant while the communications mode that includes only non-user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant is invoked; and

- enabling display, to the second instant message participant, of the selected still picture while the communications mode that includes only non-user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant is invoked.

43. (New) The method of claim 39 further comprising enabling the first instant message participant to select a pre-recorded audio-video clip from among a list of available pre-recorded audio-video clips stored on a host system and to send the selected pre-recorded audio-video clip to the second instant message recipient while the communications mode that includes only non-user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant is invoked.